

To Locate Ordnance Engineering at OAC

Joliet to Be Ammunition Design Center

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vises the operation of all Army ammunition plants and works, and coordinates the national ammunition program, which last year amounted to about \$2 billion. General Laidlaw, a West Point career officer, has been commanding general of OAC since September 1952.

Joliet to Be Ammunition Design Center

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Ammunition activities of the Army are continuing to be centralized at the Ordnance Ammunition Center in Joliet, it was made known today by Brig. Gen. W. E. Laidlaw, OAC commander.

Starting now and continuing for the next twelve months, the National Industry Engineering Mission will be gradually transferred to OAC from Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, New Jersey and Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia.

This mission, Army language for a group of related activities, covers all engineering work pertaining to the ammunition items (shells, bombs, etc.) that are produced under the direction of OAC, and to the production methods and machinery used to manufacture them. It includes the control of ammunition drawings and specifications, modification of design, the layout and functioning of ammunition production lines, standard operating procedures for the manufacture and inspection of ammunition, and other related tasks.

UP TO THE present, most of these varied activities have been carried on at Picatinny and Frankford. Because of the technical knowledge and facilities available at these arsenals, both of them will continue to be called upon periodically by OAC to carry out specific engineering projects, especially those which relate closely to research and development.

Groundwork for the transfer of the ammunition engineering mission was laid last year with the establishment of a new OAC division called the Ammunition Engineering Office. This office, headed by Col. William S. Blodgett, will perform most of the engineering functions now being transferred from Picatinny and Frankford, with the remainder to be handled by OAC's manufacturing, materials and inspection divisions.

RELOCATION of the engineering mission in Joliet will mean an eventual increase of about one hundred employees to the staff of the Ordnance Ammunition Center. Some of these will be Picatinny and Frankford Arsenal personnel who wish to transfer to OAC. However, most of the new employees will be Joliet-area residents now being hired by the Center. Particularly needed, in order to get the new functions fully operating as soon as possible, are engineers, draftsmen, specification writers, and clerical and stenographic personnel.

The engineering mission is the third new activity to be assigned to the Ordnance Ammunition Center, within the past month. On April 7, Brig. Gen. Laidlaw announced that OAC had been designated as the headquarters of the National Stock Control Point for ammunition, and would control and maintain all stocks of finished Army ammunition located in storage depots throughout the country. This new activity, he said, would be transferred from Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey next fall and winter, and would add about 250 more workers to OAC's present staff.

ON APRIL 10, Gen. Laidlaw disclosed that, starting July 1, OAC would take over the functions of the Small Arms Ammunition Center, which has been located in St. Louis, and would direct the procurement and production of ammunition for small arms (rifles, pistols, machine guns, etc.). This move is expected to add about 100 workers to the OAC roster, some of them to be transferred here from St. Louis.

The basic reason for all three assignments is the Army Ordnance Corps' long-range program to increase its effectiveness and efficiency by establishing and developing "commodity centers" throughout the country. Except for research and development on some items, each of these centers handles all aspects of a particular Ordnance Corps "commodity" such as guns, ammunition, tanks, vehicles, etc.

OAC is the national business administration headquarters of the Army's ammunition program. It now directs the procurement of ammunition parts from private firms all over the country, super-

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